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Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
later: Ms. Stoica (Vice-Chair) ..... (Romania)
later: Mr. Rosenthal (Chair) ..... (Guatemala)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 143: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/65/271 (Part II), A/65/643, A/65/644 and Corr.1, A/65/696 and Corr.1, A/65/715, A/65/738, A/65/742 and A/65/743; A/C.5/65/17)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/65/715) and the note by the Secretary-General on proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/C.5/65/17), said that peacekeeping had experienced a shift over the last year, with one mission — the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) — closing and others moving towards consolidation, drawdown or transition. There would be a decrease in 2011/12 in the number of military observers, military contingents and United Nations police in several missions. The largest anticipated increase in resources for the period would be for United Nations support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), owing to an increase in maximum troop strength for AMISOM from 8,000 to 12,000. The estimates set out in the report included the additional costs of harmonization of conditions of service.

2. The report provided information on budget performance for 2009/10, including planned and actual vacancy rates, and proposed resource levels for 2011/12, including examples of efficiency gains and management initiatives in field missions. It also provided updated information on budget formulation and presentation, human resources management issues, operational requirements, conduct and discipline, the status of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, liabilities to troop-contributing countries, and death and disability compensation.

3. The total approved budget for 2009/10 had amounted to $7.98 billion, including sums for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the support account for peacekeeping operations. The related expenditure had amounted to $7.58 billion, resulting in an overall unencumbered balance of $0.4 billion and an overall budget implementation rate of 94.9 per cent, compared to 97.2 per cent for 2008/09. Budget implementation rates had improved for 3 operations and for the Logistics Base and the support account, while they had decreased for 11 operations. The main factors affecting budget performance in 2009/10 were summarized, by mission, in chapter II of the report.

4. The total peacekeeping budget level for 2011/12, inclusive of the Logistics Base and the support account, was $7.6 billion, which was 3 per cent lower than the approved budget level for 2010/11.

5. Measures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/248 regarding conditions of service in the field, which would take effect from 1 July 2011, would expand the designation of family duty stations, introduce an additional hardship allowance for staff remaining in non-family duty stations and provide for travel costs for staff in non-family duty stations to visit a designated location in relation to existing rest and recuperation entitlements. The General Assembly had decided that the additional cost of the harmonization, estimated at $82.6 million, would be absorbed by the Organization within existing resources. To absorb those costs, the initial proposal was to abolish 349 international Professional posts and nationalize 330 Field Service posts in peacekeeping missions. The staffing reductions had been limited to lower-priority posts, especially those which had been vacant for some time.

6. International staff costs for 2011/12 had been estimated on the basis of the base salary scales effective January 2011, taking into account mission-specific post adjustment multipliers. Common staff costs had been calculated using the ratio of common staff costs to salaries based on average expenditure in 2009/10 and in the first six months of 2010/11, with provisions included for the harmonization of conditions of service where applicable, calculated for each mission.

7. Efficiency gains expected to be derived from improvements of logistical, administrative and security support to the missions were estimated at $20.6 million; examples were provided in table 7 of the report. Table 8 showed examples of initiatives to be implemented in 2011/12 that affected the use of resources. Details of efficiency gains and management initiatives were included in the budget proposal for each mission.

8. The proposed requirements for 2011/12 by peacekeeping mission were set out in table 9, while table 10 contained information on the main factors

affecting the changes in resource requirements for each mission. Information on the proposed budgetary levels for 2011/12 for all peacekeeping operations, including the Logistics Base and the support account, was also contained in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/65/17).

9. The General Assembly was requested to take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/65/715).

10. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support), commenting on the overview report just introduced (A/65/715), said that peacekeeping was in a consolidation phase: no new missions had been established in 2010, MINURCAT had completed its liquidation on 30 April 2010, and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) were drawing down and preparing for transition. At the same time, challenges remained owing to austere, remote and volatile operational environments, spoilers and attacks on civilian populations, gaps between mandates and capabilities, and sustained demand for strategic and operational support to peacekeeping and special political missions.

11. The Department of Field Support was focused on improving field operations worldwide through the implementation of a new service delivery model that used standardization to achieve efficiencies through specialization, optimization of resource and supply chain management, and increased transparency and accountability. Peacekeeping demands would remain high in 2011/12: the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was expected to increase to near-full strength; the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) continued to face intense challenges; the Security Council had agreed to a 50-per-cent increase in the strength of AMISOM; and recovery efforts by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) would continue.

12. The harmonized package of conditions of service for United Nations personnel would help ease the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff in peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The impact of the post reductions made to absorb the cost of the package would be evident in the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

13. Peacekeeping continued to face a relatively high overall vacancy rate, which had stood at 23.1 per cent as at 31 October 2010. That rate had decreased to 20.2 per cent as at the end of February 2011, reflecting efforts to speed up recruitment through the use of rosters and the deployment of recruitment assistance teams to the missions facing the greatest staffing challenges. Thus far, the field central review body had endorsed over 5,000 candidates, 40 per cent of whom were external candidates.

14. The report provided details on operational requirements relating to ground transportation, fuel management, rations and regional initiatives in information and communications technology. Air operations were covered in a separate report (A/65/738), while proposals that operational responsibilities for the delivery of support services should be transferred to the Global Service Centre were presented in the proposed 2011/12 budget for the Logistics Base (A/65/760) and were reflected in the report on the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/65/643).

15. Property management was an area of concern: the Department was working to address issues highlighted by the Board of Auditors in its report (A/65/5 (Vol. II)). While the Board had noted improvement in the physical property count, key performance indicators and centralized monitoring had been introduced to maintain control over non-expendable property. A new categorization system for expendable property was being incorporated into Galileo to enable managers to reduce inventory levels through better planning and control. Turnkey contracts had proved effective in providing such commodities as rations and fuel to the field. Given the importance of such measures for the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the Department would continue its efforts in the upcoming year.

16. Turning to environmental policy, she said that sound environmental management improved the operational capabilities of field missions, the health, safety and security of personnel and local communities, and public perception of the United Nations. By 2012, the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre was expected to reduce fuel consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions in peacekeeping missions by 11 per cent compared to 2008. Better control over the use of the vehicle fleet would also have positive financial and environmental impacts. Projects under development in missions included wastewater treatment and reuse, waste

reduction, recycling and proper waste disposal. Training materials were being produced to support the implementation of the Environmental Policy for United Nations field missions.

17. The report of the Secretary-General on United Nations air operations (A/65/738) provided an overview of current United Nations global air operations and highlighted the growth in their size and costs. As at 30 September 2010, the aviation fleet had comprised 257 aircraft supporting 20 field missions; 61 per cent of those assets belonged to MONUSCO, UNAMID and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). The fleet had now been reduced to 237 aircraft.

18. In recent years, the rise in the costs of aircraft chartering, aviation fuel and ancillary support had increased the direct operating costs of air support beyond the level attributable to increases in fleet size or the number of missions supported. The report outlined initiatives to achieve more efficient and effective management of air operations while ensuring the safety of personnel and responsiveness to operational needs.

19. The report of the Secretary-General on the progress of training in peacekeeping (A/65/644 and Corr.1) built on the new directions summarized in the 2009 report on that subject (A/63/680). It detailed improvements in all phases of the training cycle, including the identification and prioritization of needs, standard-setting, efficient delivery and new systems for evaluating the impact of training.

20. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Political Affairs and Department of Field Support were committed to preventing and addressing misconduct in field operations, which had been the focus of sustained efforts in the field and at Headquarters. Over the previous five years, the structures, preventive measures, and awareness-raising and training activities put in place had reduced reports of misconduct. The number of sexual exploitation and abuse allegations had declined from 340 in 2005 to 85 in 2010. The three Departments would not rest until that number reached zero. Partnership between the United Nations and Member States in addressing the issue remained essential.

21. The report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/65/643) mapped out the vision and plan for transforming the delivery of services to field missions and the steps taken to that end. The objectives included expediting and improving support for field operations, improving staff safety and living conditions, and adopting a cost-efficient corporate model to strategically programme, manage and distribute resources.

22. The report presented an overview of activities undertaken and results achieved in the first five months of implementation: the first service package, a module for a 200-person camp, had been defined and implemented in consultation with Member States and field missions; five functions had been identified for proposed transfer to the Global Service Centre; a Regional Service Centre had been established in Entebbe, Uganda; and a human resources framework was advancing in coordination with the Office of Human Resources Management.

23. The report of the Secretary-General on a standardized funding model of the global field support strategy (A/65/696 and Corr.1) presented a model that would serve as a tool to provide the financing modalities needed to expedite the start-up of new missions or the expansion of existing ones. By providing realistic assessments of the most critical needs in the first year of a mission and allowing the Secretary-General to better draw from reserves and strategic stocks, the model would facilitate more rapid deployment of the resources needed during the start-up period with improved financial management, transparency and accountability.

24. Driving organizational change was not easy, but the progress in the early stages of implementation of the plans set out in the latter two reports had been encouraging. The Department would consult regularly with Member States to ensure full transparency and an integrated approach with its partners.

25. Greater accountability in all areas was crucial. She welcomed the conclusion of the Board of Auditors that the financial and administrative management of peacekeeping operations had improved over the previous year. Further measures were being pursued: in 2010, the Secretary-General had for the first time signed a senior management compact with each of his special representatives and heads of mission to strengthen oversight and accountability. In addition, the new human resources management scorecard, which had superseded the Human Resources Action

Plan, would become operational in 2011 to ensure monitoring through the review of strategic and operational indicators.

26. She concluded by paying tribute to those who had lost their lives in the service of peace in a year that had seen a particularly heavy toll.

27. **Ms. de Miranda** (Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/65/742), said that the report contained data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations system from January to December 2010. Overall, the number of allegations reported had decreased to 116, compared with 154 in 2009, a reduction of 24 per cent. The number of allegations relating to peacekeeping personnel in 2010 had fallen to 85, compared with 112 in 2009. The decline could be attributed to the measures taken to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, especially by military personnel, which included enhanced training, welfare and recreation programmes and accountability measures.

28. As at 31 December 2010, investigations had been completed in respect of 74 per cent of allegations reported in 2008, 60 per cent of those reported in 2009 and 38 per cent of those reported in 2010.

29. The report also described prevention, enforcement and remediation measures taken by the Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Conduct and Discipline Unit and Teams of the Department of Field Support to enforce United Nations standards of conduct. Such measures included the implementation of a new induction training programme on conduct and discipline; an improved information-sharing tool for the public website containing statistics on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse; and the production of awareness-raising and public information materials. The Secretary-General was committed to a policy of zero tolerance for misconduct by peacekeeping personnel and, in partnership with the Member States, would maintain vigilance to eradicate it.

30. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/743), said that the Advisory Committee shared the Secretary-General's view that the operational environments of peacekeeping missions remained dynamic and volatile; however, the current, more stable, level of activity should allow for an intensified focus on improving effectiveness and cost-efficiency. The consolidation of peacekeeping could thus potentially lead to a further reduction in the overall level of peacekeeping resources.

31. In human resources management, recent changes made by the General Assembly had established a framework for addressing many perennial human resources problems in peacekeeping. The focus should now shift to the implementation of those changes, which should have a demonstrable impact on such areas as staff recruitment and retention.

32. The Advisory Committee recognized that little time had been available before finalization of the peacekeeping budget proposals for 2011/12 to provide for the absorption of the costs related to the harmonization of conditions of service. It also noted that the initial list of posts to be abolished or nationalized had been reviewed in the field and that missions could propose adjustments to the specific posts involved. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General. The exercise had, however, highlighted the number of posts in peacekeeping that had remained vacant for long periods. The Advisory Committee reiterated the need for long-vacant posts to be reviewed regularly, particularly before proposals for new posts were made to the General Assembly.

33. With respect to air operations, the Secretary-General's report (A/65/738) highlighted their significance in peacekeeping in not only operational but also financial terms, at an annual cost of over $1 billion. Intensified efforts were necessary to manage global air operations more efficiently and effectively while ensuring the safety of personnel.

34. The move towards integrated global air fleet management was welcome; there was, however, an inherent tension between the current situation, in which all air assets were acquired on a mission-by-mission basis and the leadership of each mission was responsible for their utilization, and the benefits that could result from their global management. Further consideration should be given to how lines of authority and accountability could be properly aligned in the context of the global management of United Nations air assets.

35. On aviation safety, the Secretary-General had requested the General Assembly to take note of version 2 of the United Nations Common Aviation Safety Standards and his intention to promulgate them. The Advisory Committee's report provided additional information on the development of the standards and the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit; it recommended that the Assembly should take that information into account in considering the actions proposed by the Secretary-General.

36. On the subject of conduct and discipline, the Advisory Committee welcomed the decline in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving peacekeeping personnel reported in 2010. It commended the joint efforts of the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries in achieving those results and emphasized the need for sustained efforts in that area.

37. With regard to peacekeeping training, progress had been made in such areas as the setting of training standards. More effort was needed in other areas, particularly the monitoring and evaluation of training activities. The Secretary-General's report (A/65/644) highlighted the extent to which the delivery of peacekeeping training required collaboration and coordination among Secretariat departments. Much of that training consisted of courses that were mandatory for all civilian staff. At the same time, work on the evaluation of training in peacekeeping could have a broader application. Given those linkages, the General Assembly might wish to request the Secretary-General to provide a report on training in the Secretariat as a whole.

38. The global field support strategy was to be implemented over a five-year period starting in July 2010. As the first progress report (A/65/643) covered only the first five months of implementation, it was too early to draw conclusions as to the strategy's impact. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations were intended to help Member States understand the objectives and expected outcomes and to provide guidance on the format and content of future progress reports.

39. The governance and management arrangements put in place provided a good basis for consulting with Member States and managing the required change. The new service delivery model involved a large number of stakeholders in a geographically dispersed and complex environment. Robust governance and management arrangements would therefore be essential for achieving the strategy's intended objectives; the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretary-General to keep those arrangements under review and to make any necessary adjustments to ensure their continued operational effectiveness.

40. The Advisory Committee welcomed the progress made on predefined modules and service packages and the consultative approach taken in developing the first module for a 200-person camp. It looked forward to receiving an assessment of the initial phase in the next progress report.

41. On the reprofiling of the Logistics Base as the Global Service Centre, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals to transfer five backstopping functions from Headquarters to the Global Service Centre at Brindisi. The Secretary-General should, however, elaborate on his proposals in order to provide Member States with a longer-term perspective on the Centre's organizational structure and operational role and on the staff and functions to be transferred from Headquarters. The Advisory Committee had made several observations on the process mapping exercise for identifying suitable functions for transfer and recommended that the Assembly should request the Secretary-General to provide more complete analysis when making proposals for the transfer of further functions.

42. The Advisory Committee had noted the progress and results achieved in providing common functions from the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, as well as the Centre's governance and management framework, which should continue to facilitate timely decision-making and accountability and remain responsive to the needs of the missions served. It recommended that the Assembly should request the Secretary-General to provide an initial assessment of the effectiveness of the Regional Service Centre in the next performance report.

43. In its observations on the standardized funding model, the Advisory Committee had sought to clarify the methodology used to develop the standard costing factors underpinning the model. It encouraged the Secretary-General to further refine that methodology to include, in addition to the numerical methods applied in the first phase, an analysis of cost structures as they related to activities and outputs and a functional

analysis of existing posts. The formulation of budget proposals based on a standard funding model should not reduce the requirement for a full justification of the resources proposed for the first year of operation of new missions. The Advisory Committee welcomed the initiative to streamline and rationalize the budget process; it would offer further comments on the applicability of the model and on the format, content and presentation of first-year budget submissions when it considered the model's first application to a new mission.

44. The Advisory Committee did not support the Secretary-General's proposal for expanded commitment authority giving him access, for each Security Council decision to establish or expand a mission, to up to $150 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and strategic deployment stocks. The proposed standard funding model, which should expedite the development and approval of first-year budgets for new missions, should limit the need for recourse to additional financing.

45. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on peacekeeping operations during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 (A/65/271 (Part II)), said that the report provided an overview of the 195 oversight reports on peace operations prepared during the period.

46. The events that had befallen the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and MONUSCO were a reminder that staff members worked and lived in frequently unpredictable environments. Safety and security operations in MINURCAT, MINUSTAH, UNAMA, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had not been in full compliance with essential security standards. Aviation safety operations in MONUSCO, UNAMID and UNMIS had failed to ensure that critical risks were being systematically identified and acted upon in a timely manner. The Office had therefore urged that critical audit recommendations relating to the safety and security of United Nations operations should be implemented without delay.

47. In 2010, the Investigations Division of OIOS had issued 101 investigation reports on allegations involving United Nations staff members, volunteers and military and police personnel in peacekeeping operations. The Division had continued to address sexual exploitation and abuse, assault, corruption, forgery, fraud and misuse of resources. She was grateful to troop-contributing countries for their cooperation in ensuring timely investigations.

48. The Inspection and Evaluation Division had conducted programme evaluations of UNMIL and MINUSTAH, as well as a thematic evaluation of cooperation and coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, on the one hand, and regional organizations, on the other, which would be presented to Member States in the coming days.

49. Since beginning her tenure in 2010, she had been committed to strengthening the Office. Representatives of all divisions of the Office had convened in February 2011 to formulate goals and strategies. Challenges included communications, client relations, planning and priority-setting. Actions to reduce vacancy rates throughout the Office were a particular priority. Over 50 recruitment actions had been completed since September 2010, but the total number of vacancies had been reduced by only 25 per cent. The Office aimed to fill as many vacancies as possible by the end of 2011. Successful candidates for the two long-standing D-2 vacancies had been identified and approved by the Secretary-General.

50. **Mr. Argüello** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to cross-cutting policy issues concerning the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the Group reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, including those related to peacekeeping operations.

51. While each peacekeeping mission was unique, resolutions on cross-cutting issues could serve as an important policy tool, providing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with comprehensive guidance on issues that were common to all operations. Given that all peacekeeping missions must be provided with the resources they required to fulfil their mandates, the delays in providing resources to some missions, particularly those in Africa, were a matter of concern.

52. The Group recognized the valuable contributions and sacrifices made by troop-contributing countries. It was important to expedite reimbursements to those countries, which were being forced to bear additional burdens because some Member States had not paid their assessments on time. Close consultations should be maintained with troop-contributing countries on all matters related to peacekeeping.

53. The Group's position was that the General Assembly must approve, at the second part of the resumed session, an increase in rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. The last review of troop costs dated back to 1992, and the last ad hoc increase, to 2002. That situation placed a heavy financial burden on troop-contributing countries and jeopardized the sustainability of their participation.

54. The Group noted the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 63/285. The Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment should examine the results of the periodic surveys at the end of the current cycle and on a triennial basis thereafter in order to provide the Committee with technical guidance.

55. Member States had experienced difficulties in providing the data requested in the survey questionnaire. The Group called on the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to work closely with troop-contributing countries in order to expedite data collection, including by making optimal use of the Working Group's expertise.

56. The Group unreservedly supported a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and was deeply concerned at the increase in allegations involving civilian personnel acting on behalf of the Organization. The Group called on the Secretary-General to ensure that staff members showed respect for all cultures and did not discriminate against any individual or group or otherwise abuse their authority. At the same time, it was important to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of peacekeeping operations and troop-contributing countries.

57. By its resolution 64/269, section II, paragraph 3, the General Assembly had decided to increase the level of compensation for death for all categories of uniformed personnel. The Group stressed the need to establish a mechanism for the periodic review of such compensation, taking into account the cost of living and inflationary factors; conduct a comprehensive review of death and disability claims; eliminate existing backlogs; and simplify and accelerate the processing of claims. It trusted that the Secretary-General would fully abide by the terms of the resolution.

58. The Group was deeply concerned at the information provided by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee concerning the implementation of resolution 65/248 and, in particular, the abolition of posts. The Secretary-General must fully respect the terms of that resolution, which provided that the harmonization of the conditions of service must not impact on operational costs or undermine the implementation of mandated programmes and activities.

59. **Ms. Schäfer** (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that peacekeeping operations had reached unprecedented size and scope in recent years. At the same time, one large peacekeeping mission had recently closed and others were being consolidated or were at the drawdown stage; those phases deserved greater attention.

60. The European Union was aware of the arguments in favour of an ad hoc increase in rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, but was not convinced that a sufficient evidence-based case had been made for diverging from the process established by General Assembly resolution 63/285. It should be borne in mind that consensus-based decision-making was an essential component of the Committee's working methods.

61. The European Union took note of concerns that the current rates posed a serious threat to the participation of some troop-contributing countries. The overall sustainability of operations was of the utmost importance, and the current scale of assessments placed a disproportionate financial burden on some Member States. The European Union trusted that those Member States that could contribute more to the financing of the entire Organization, according to their share of the world economy and their capacity to pay, would do so for the next scale period. Concerns regarding the Organization's financial architecture must be addressed in order to ensure its financial sustainability.

62. **Mr. Lafortune** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the growing

size and complexity of peacekeeping operations made it more urgent than ever for Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. The adoption of a cross-cutting resolution would help the Organization to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, pursue targeted management reforms and address key thematic issues. Such a resolution represented a rare opportunity for Member States to provide guidance to the Secretariat on how to do more with less. The Committee's discussions should address all issues related to operational expenditures that were common to all peacekeeping operations, including fuel and rations management and air operations.

63. Although there had been an overall downward trend in reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, the percentage of cases involving minors had risen. That situation highlighted the vital role played by the Conduct and Discipline Teams and the need to allocate sufficient resources for enforcing conduct and discipline rules.

64. It would be difficult to address such challenges in mission-specific budgets. It was therefore necessary to adopt a cross-cutting resolution that addressed key issues, including the budget process, recruitment, conduct and discipline, inter-mission cooperation, improvements to business processes and the global field support strategy. By engaging with Member States, the Department of Field Support had appropriately recognized the concerns and inputs of troop- and police-contributing countries.

65. Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed the flexible manner in which resources had been allocated to support the referendum in South Sudan. That example highlighted the value of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre, suggesting that operational agilities and efficiencies could be further improved by regionalizing the appropriate functions and activities. Member States should reach a consensus on the next stages in developing and implementing the strategy. While it had been understood that the first year of the strategy would be cost-neutral, the current round of decisions must enhance the Department's ability to support peacekeepers while also generating efficiencies and savings.

66. It was important to reach an agreement on the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations. While the three delegations had reservations about some aspects of the proposal submitted by the Secretary-General, they believed that the time had come to find a solution.

67. **Mr. Kaegi** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the two delegations appreciated the consultative and transparent approach to the implementation of the global field support strategy. The first progress report on the strategy (A/65/643) pointed to some improvements on the ground. It would be interesting to have further information on the experience acquired by the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe and the mapping exercise involving the Regional and Global Service Centres.

68. In view of the recurrent problem of overbudgeting, the two delegations looked forward to considering the alternative approach proposed by the Secretary-General (A/65/696), which was intended to standardize the funding model while protecting the legislative role of the General Assembly. Further information would be needed on how the funding model was linked to the use of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and strategic deployment stocks. The project would need some refinement, but had considerable merit and was aimed in the right direction.

69. **Mr. Shin Boo-nam** (Republic of Korea) said that in the current global economic climate, many Member States had been forced to reduce their expenditures. The proposed total peacekeeping budget for 2011/12 represented the second consecutive reduction in that budget since 2009/10. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to improve efficiency and his request that field missions should seek to reduce their budgets by 1 per cent. However, the overall budget implementation rate was still low, at 94.9 per cent in 2009/10. The Secretary-General should allocate resources in a more strategic manner and minimize possible overbudgeting practices.

70. The fluctuations in peacekeeping budgets that resulted from the dynamic and volatile environment of operations caused difficulties in long-term fiscal management. His delegation suggested that the Secretariat should present a provisional estimate for the next three to five years, on the basis of current missions.

71. His delegation welcomed the smooth implementation of the global field support strategy and

the proposal for a standardized funding model, which would expedite the budget process for the first year of peacekeeping operations and ensure timely start-up and deployment. As the most important component of the Organization's mission, the maintenance of international peace and security required adequate resources, which should be utilized with greater fiscal discipline.

72. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan), recalling that his country had since 2006 contributed over 10,600 uniformed personnel to nine United Nations peacekeeping operations, said that his delegation supported, in principle, the idea of an overview report on all operational and related aspects of peacekeeping operations. Resolutions on cross-cutting issues in the area of peacekeeping should provide overall guidance on how improvements could be made through business processes and other administrative measures; they should not be aimed at micromanaging peacekeeping operations.

73. His delegation appreciated the difficulty of reaching agreement on all cross-cutting issues. It would be reasonable to consider the overview reports biennially. In view of the challenges posed by the dynamic and volatile environment of peacekeeping operations, his delegation supported the efforts of the Department of Field Support to further develop the global field support strategy, which would expedite deployment and service delivery.

74. Peacekeepers were now under tremendous pressure to perform increasingly complex tasks that went beyond their traditional remit. However, the contributor base remained limited and peacekeeping financing was often insufficient. Despite inflation, rates of reimbursement had remained unchanged since the ad hoc increase of 2002, placing a burden on troop-contributing countries and undermining operations. As the only organization with a global reach, the United Nations could deploy peacekeepers at one eighth the cost that would be incurred by an individual Member State, and could act in a politically sensitive manner. Reform should take place through constructive engagement rather than by reducing Member States' financial contributions; the global field support strategy exemplified that approach. Issues such as compensation for death and disability should be addressed in a comprehensive, sustained and expeditious manner through the establishment of an automatic periodic review mechanism taking into account the cost of living and inflation.

75. Nationals of troop-contributing countries should be appointed to top managerial positions, both at Headquarters and in the field, in order to create a stronger link between those who directed peacekeeping operations and those who served in the field. His delegation regretted that the overview reports did not include information on the steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure proper representation of those countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/269.

76. The realization of the laudable objectives of the global field support strategy required significant changes to current procedures for resource approval and service delivery. His delegation saw merit in the Secretary-General's proposal to develop a standardized funding model for pre-approval by the General Assembly. The proposal should be sufficiently detailed to assure Member States that financial resources would be used efficiently and that internal controls would be in place.

77. The operational functions currently performed at Headquarters were vital for ensuring effective operational control and accountability. His delegation would therefore not support the transfer of any functions from Headquarters that required interaction with troop-contributing countries. As troop- and police-contributing countries were the primary users of support services, the Secretariat should consult with them extensively in further developing the global field support strategy, inter alia through bimonthly briefings, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the client board and any other such forum.

78. *Ms. Stoica (Romania), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

79. **Mr. Okochi** (Japan) said that, although the proposed budget level for peacekeeping in 2011/12 was nearly the same as that for the previous year, the current level of peacekeeping expenditure and the difficult financial climate left no room for complacency. Further savings should be possible — through efficiency measures and a review of the need for long-vacant posts — without hampering the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. As noted by the Advisory Committee, the overall proposed 2011/12 budget level reflected only $24 million in efficiency gains, although the initial goal had been a

reduction of 1 per cent. Moreover, 239 international posts in peacekeeping operations had remained vacant for over a year. His delegation wished to address those matters during the deliberations on cross-cutting issues and on each budget proposal. The costs of harmonizing the conditions of service for field staff should be absorbed through the abolition and nationalization of international posts.

80. He welcomed the establishment of governance and management arrangements for the global field support strategy, the launching of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre in the Regional Service Centre, which had generated savings of $27 million, and the streamlining of the budget process through the standardized funding model. Much still remained to be done to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of services to field missions.

81. Member States should be informed of the expected efficiency gains and economies of scale when the transfer of additional functions and services to the Regional Service Centre was proposed. In addition, the reasons for the transfer of functions to the Global Service Centre other than closer proximity to field missions should be explained.

82. Lastly, no convincing explanation had been given for the proposed modification of the arrangements for commitment authority and withdrawal of strategic deployment stocks.

83. **Mr. Sene** (Senegal) said that his country wished to pay tribute to those who had lost their lives in the service of international peace and security and to civilian personnel who worked selflessly in often difficult conditions. Senegal remained committed to making its troops and police available for United Nations peacekeeping missions.

84. The proposed overall peacekeeping budget level of $7.6 billion was reasonable and fully justified. Peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa, must receive the resources they needed to discharge their mandates, the key components of which were protection of civilian populations, establishment of conditions of safety and security, and support for the peace process.

85. As in the past, his delegation had strong reservations about the practice of negotiating peacekeeping budgets as a package and about applying across-the-board budget cuts to all peacekeeping operations. The current global economic climate demanded, however, that financial resources for peacekeeping should be managed rationally, effectively and efficiently and with utmost transparency. The Secretary-General should therefore fully implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and all oversight bodies, particularly in respect of expendable and non-expendable property. The Procurement Manual should be applied intelligently to ensure access to a wide range of suppliers, particularly those in developing countries.

86. He urged the Secretary-General to ensure that amounts owed to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment were paid in a timely fashion and that those countries were well represented in the staffing of the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

87. Lastly, he urged the Committee to reach an agreement at the current session to credit the funds remaining in the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations to Member States.

88. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that the budget implementation rate of 94 per cent in 2009/10, compared to 97 per cent in the previous period, underscored the need for more careful resource planning and expenditure. He hoped that future budget proposals would be more realistic. The Advisory Committee made a crucial distinction between savings and underexpenditure: the latter, if it represented only delayed expenditure, could ultimately lead to increased resource requirements.

89. Noting the 3-per-cent decrease in the proposed overall peacekeeping budget level, from $7.8 billion for 2010/11 to $7.6 billion for 2011/12, which resulted mainly from the drawdown of MINURCAT and reductions in the proposed resources for MINUSTAH, UNAMID and UNMIS, he said that the Committee should discuss budget reductions not only in terms of changes to the mandates of individual missions but also in terms of measures to optimize the use of resources. His delegation would scrutinize the reasons given for proposed increases in the budgets of missions whose mandates had not changed substantially.

90. The Secretariat's efforts to achieve optimal use of resources and timely delivery of mandates through the global field support strategy were commendable. He welcomed the dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States that had taken place in various forums,

as well as the briefings and workshops organized to discuss issues of logistics and resource levels. It must be stressed, however, that the Fifth Committee remained the primary forum for the deliberation of those matters. Regrettably, there had been overlap between the discussions in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping and those in the Fifth Committee during the current session: it was important to observe the distinction between the mandates of those two bodies.

91. While the Russian delegation shared the views of the Secretary-General on many of his proposals, it differed on the proposed resource components of the global field support strategy and on procedural innovations and the application of lessons learned from other organizations, including in the area of aviation services. Those issues required thorough discussion to ensure that the relevant decisions took into account the specific features of United Nations peacekeeping operations, enhanced transparency and ensured the smooth operation of such sophisticated peacekeeping mechanisms.

92. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that the situation with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations presented a contrast: on the one hand, prevention and enforcement efforts and assistance to victims were being institutionalized worldwide, while on the other, there were increased reports of abuse of minors allegedly committed by United Nations civilian and police personnel. The Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13) stated clearly that sexual exploitation and abuse violated universally recognized international legal norms and standards and had always been unacceptable behaviour and prohibited conduct for United Nations staff. Consequently, the Secretary-General should urgently take all necessary disciplinary measures, including dismissal, against any United Nations staff member who was found to have committed such an offence. It was therefore a matter of concern that the Secretary-General's related report (A/65/742) indicated that inadequate information had been received from troop- and police-contributing countries on investigations or on disciplinary measures taken when allegations were substantiated. Member States must, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/269, take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes committed by military and other personnel did not go unpunished and that perpetrators were brought to justice.

93. *Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) resumed the Chair.*

94. **Mr. Ren** Yisheng (China) said that, having reached the highest deployment levels in their history, United Nations peacekeeping operations were now being consolidated, and the peacekeeping budget for 2011/12 was set to decrease. His delegation hoped that the international community would continue to work on the basis of its actual capacity in order to stabilize the growth in peacekeeping expenses.

95. The overall budget implementation rate had been almost 3 per cent lower in 2009/10 than in 2008/09. Factors such as delayed recruitment and deployment, the relatively high actual vacancy rate and the drawdown of certain peacekeeping operations had contributed to that situation. However, overbudgeting remained a problem, and his delegation hoped that future budgets would reflect actual needs as closely as possible and would be revised in a timely manner.

96. His delegation was concerned about the deficiencies noted by the Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee and OIOS in air and ground transportation, fuel and rations management, information and communications technology and management of expendable and non-expendable property. China supported the recommendations put forward by the oversight bodies and hoped that effective measures would be taken to improve accountability and internal control; avoid waste, fraud and abuse; and strengthen human resources management, lowering the vacancy rate and expanding training programmes.

97. His delegation hoped that the progress achieved in implementing the global field support strategy would be conducive to greater budgetary discipline, the adoption of a standardized funding model and fuller operational integration and accountability. His delegation trusted that the next annual report would include information on costs, achievements and benchmarks.

98. **Mr. Hussain** (Bangladesh) said that his country attached great importance to peacekeeping, as it was currently contributing over 10,000 personnel to peacekeeping operations. Although each peacekeeping mission was unique, the resolution on cross-cutting issues provided policy directives applicable to all. His

delegation therefore urged the General Assembly to take action at the current session in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of peacekeeping operations, in particular by providing adequate resources and supporting troop-contributing countries.

99. Although it was necessary to streamline resources, extreme caution should be exercised in order to ensure that essential services were not jeopardized. A budget cut of 3 per cent had been proposed at a time when a number of peacekeeping missions faced significant challenges in their operations. Research conducted in 2007 by the United States-based RAND Corporation had found that United Nations peacekeeping operations had been more successful than others while using fewer resources.

100. It was important to expedite reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, which bore additional burdens owing to delays in the payment of Member States' assessments. Moreover, the length of time that had elapsed since troop costs had last been reviewed represented discriminatory treatment in respect of peacekeepers, as the salaries and benefits of others working for the Organization were reviewed regularly. The General Assembly must approve an increase in troop costs during the second part of the resumed session. His delegation noted with appreciation the decision to increase levels of compensation for all categories of uniformed personnel. It was important, however, to establish a mechanism for the automatic periodic review of compensation for death and disability.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.